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unit
- b) a variant of any one of the sequences in (a), wherein the amino acid sequence said variant has at least 80% identity to at least one of the sequences in (a); and
c) a fragment of one of the sequences of (a) wherein the fragment comprises at least 6 contiguous amino acids.

63. The polypeptide of claim 62, wherein the amino acid sequence of the variant of of (b) has at least 90% identity to at least one of the sequences in (a).

64. The polypeptide of claim 62, wherein the amino acid sequence of the variant of of (b) has at least 95% identity to at least one of the sequences in (a).

65. The polypeptide of claim 62, wherein the amino acid sequence of the variant comprises a conservative amino acid substitution.

66. An isolated polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequences of a naturally occurring allelic variant of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, and SEQ ID NO:41,

67. The polypeptide of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide, or fragment thereof, has SAg activity.

68. The polypeptide of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide, or fragment thereof, is encoded by a human endogenous retrovirus.

69. The polypeptide of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide, or fragment thereof, is encoded by the *env* gene.

70. An antibody that binds immunospecifically to the polypeptide of claim 62.